

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal. The Examiner is thanked for considering claims 43 and 50 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 39-42, 44-49, 51, 52 and 54 are pending. Claims 39, 44, 51, 52 and 54 are amended and claims 43, 50 and 53 are cancelled, without prejudice.

No new matter is added by these amendments.

It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinct from the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The amendments and remarks herein are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 or 112; but rather the amendments and remarks are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Support for the amended recitation in the claims is found throughout the specification and from the cancelled claims.

II. 35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTION

Claims 39-42, 44-49 and 51-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,289,102 to Ueda et al. The rejection is traversed.

The amendments to the claims render the rejection moot. Applicants continue to believe, however, that the instant invention is neither taught nor suggested in the art. For example, Ueda

fails to teach an information processing device for supplying management information to a data storage device, that includes at least the following features:

“forming means for forming management information that manages a storage area in the data storage device in a layered structure, said management information pertaining to a definition area to be formed in the data storage device, said definition area being used to define storage areas of the data storage device for use in providing services;

encrypting means for encrypting said management information, said encrypting means encrypting a lower layer of the management information by using a key contained in an upper layer of the management information;

communication means for communicating the encrypted management information to said data storage device, to enable said definition area to be formed therein based upon said management information.” (emphasis added)


Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

By this Amendment, claims 39-42, 44-49, 51, 52 and 54 should be allowed; and this application is in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal. Favorable reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the rejections, and prompt issuance of the Notice of Allowance are, therefore, all earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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